

Integrity

Transparency

Accountability

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Exemption Applications Accepted Year Round

Auditor Ralph Meacham is happy to announce that Ohio House Bill 166 has extended the timeframe to apply for the Real Estate Homestead Exemption and both the Real Estate and Manufactured Home Owner Occupant Reduction to the end of the tax year to which the exemption or reduction applies. The bill took effect September 9, 2016.

The **Owner Occupancy Tax Reduction** is available to homeowners who own and occupy their home as

their principal place of residence.

The **Homestead Exemption for Senior Citizen and Disabled Persons** allows eligible senior citizen and disabled homeowners who own and occupy their home and meet the required income threshold to shield \$25,000 worth of the fair market value of their home, garage and one acre of land from property taxes. For example, the owner of a home appraised at \$100,000 who is eligible for the Home-

stead Exemption would be taxed as if the home were worth \$75,000.

The **Homestead Exemption for Disabled Veterans** shields up to \$50,000 worth of the fair market value of their home and is open to eligible homeowners who are determined to have a 100% service-connected disability, with no income threshold.

The deadline of the first Monday in June is still in effect for Manufactured Home Homestead Exemption applicants.

See inside the newsletter for more information!

Financial Reports on Website

The Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) and the Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR) for fiscal year 2015 can be found on the Mahoning County website.

A CAFR is a report of financial statements for a governmental entity that requires reporting on a Generally Ac-

cepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) basis and contains financial statements and other financial and statistical data .

The PAFR is similar to the CAFR but is presented in a format that is easy to understand by those without a background in public finance



or accounting. It is designed for readers who would like to review financial information in a summarized format and also provides non-financial information to give users a better understanding of the county as a whole.



Homestead Qualifications

From January 1 through December 31 each year, a homeowner may apply for the Homestead Exemption if they met the following qualifications:

Owens and occupies the home as their domicile as of January 1;

AND

Is at least 65 years old or will reach age 65;

OR

Is certified totally and permanently disabled as of January 1 regardless of age;

OR

Is the surviving spouse of a qualified homeowner who was receiving the Homestead Exemption at the time of death, and who was at least 59 years old on the date of their spouses death;

AND

Meets the income threshold. Income is the Ohio Adjusted Gross Income (OAGI) of the applicant and applicant's spouse; OAGI can be found on line 3 of the Ohio income tax return. (Call the office for further income information.)

"I am excited to be on the forefront of the government transparency initiative started by Treasurer Mandel."
Auditor Meacham

Government Transparency

Mahoning County was the first county to provide its financial data to the Ohio State Treasurer's government transparency website: ohiocheckbook.com.

The website is designed to make government more open and accountable to taxpayers by allowing Ohioans to follow their tax

dollars and see how public money is being spent.

Additionally, Mahoning County payroll records are also available on the website. Taxpayers will now have easier access to the county payroll through a portal on the County Auditor's website. For all departments in the county with the exception

of the Sheriff's and Prosecutor's Offices, name, position description, department, and 2015 total compensation will be provided. For the Sheriff's and Prosecutor's Offices, initials will be used instead of names.

Visit ohiocheckbook.com for more information.

Craft Show Season

Ohio law requires any person or business making retail sales of tangible personal property or taxable services to register for the sales tax by obtaining a vendor's license.

Acting as an agent of the State of Ohio, the Auditor issues vendor's licenses.

A regular vendor's license is for businesses with a fixed business location. The cost is \$25 and can be obtained at the Auditor's Office or through the State of Ohio Department of Taxation's website: www.tax.ohio.gov/.



A transient vendor's license is for businesses that transport goods to temporary places of business or exhibits such as craft shows. These vendor's licenses are also \$25 but issued only through the Ohio Department of Taxation.

Reappraisal Underway



Field checks and review of properties in many townships and villages have been completed in preparation for the Tax Year 2017, Calendar Year 2018 Reappraisal.

Ohio law requires all county Auditors to reappraise each parcel in their county every six years. This reappraisal process involves an “on-foot or drive by” inspection of the exterior of properties to obtain accurate information regarding buildings and homes in Mahoning County. The information obtained through these inspections combined with sale data will be used in determining individual appraisal values for taxation purposes.

“The appraisers will not need to speak to all homeowners, but if they do ask to speak to the homeowner, they will have proper identification and I encourage homeowners to ask for their ID cards,” Auditor Meacham stated. If no one is home at the time of the appraiser’s visit, they will leave a “door card questionnaire” which property owners are requested to complete and mail back to the appraisers.

—“I will keep the taxpayers informed on the progress and encourage taxpayers to call with any questions or concerns.”

**Auditor
Meacham**

Consumer Protection

Auditor Meacham is warning Mahoning County residents of the discovery of credit card skimmers throughout Ohio. A credit card skimmer is a small electronic device placed inside of non-locking gas pumps that can be installed by criminals in less than two minutes. Most of the time, gas pumps furthest away from the gas attendant

are targeted. The skimmer captures your credit card information when you insert it into the pump. The criminals go back to the gas station and retrieve the stolen credit card data wirelessly. Next thing the consumer knows, there are fraudulent charges on their credit card statement.

Auditor Meacham’s weights and measures inspectors work diligently to ensure accuracy at all gas pumps and report any tampering to the local police for investigation.



Mahoning County GIS
Mahoning County
Administration Building
21 W. Boardman St., Room 105
Youngstown, OH 44503
gis.mahoningcountyoh.gov
330-740-2455

GIS Corner

Mahoning County has long established the ideal of combining information from other county offices into a centralized data warehouse using the best technology available.

The Mahoning County GIS Department is dedicated to this ideal by providing the quality and timeliness of public records and services to the community through their online mapping system. This department is a joint collaborative between the County Auditor, Engineer and Commissioners as well as the Sanitary Engineers Office and the County

Data Processing Center. Taxpayers can use the online maps as well as obtain paper maps for a fee from the office.

Additionally, the GIS department offers continuous classes and training on their software for taxpayers and other county offices.



Canfield Fair 2016

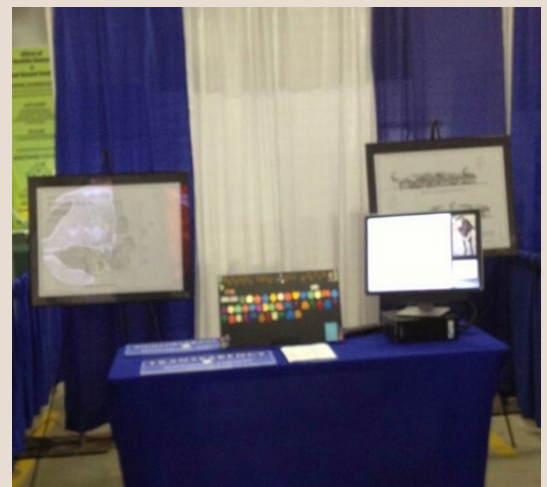
The Auditor's Office was a great success at the 170th Canfield Fair!

The Mahoning County Data Processing Department set up a hi-tech display to show fairgoers all that the County Auditor's Office does.



The GIS Department brought historical and current maps so visitors could see how things have changed over the years.

The Dog Warden's office gave fairgoers a sneak peek at the plans for the new state-of-the-art Mahoning County Dog Pound and Adoption Center.



Canfield Fair 2016

Each day brought a different guest to share his/her expertise:



Eric Syneberg, Regional Rep, Treasurer of State's Office

Steve Raffa, Integrity Appraisal Services

Judge Shirley Christian

Dianne Fry, Mahoning County Dog Warden

Eric Barrett, Ohio Extension Director

Cheri Donofrio, Director of Taxation, Mahoning County Auditor's Office

Robert Rimedio, Chief Appraiser, Mahoning County Auditor's Office

Scott Crawford, Real Estate Supervisor, Mahoning County Auditor's Office

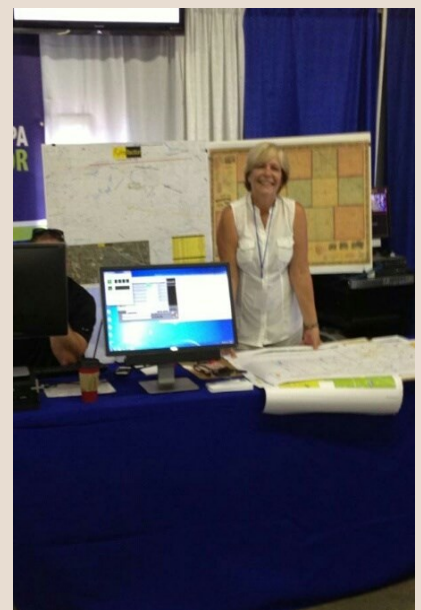
Elizabeth Petrie, Government Budgeting, Mahoning County Auditor's Office

*Marty Cegan, Weights & Measures,
Mahoning County Auditor's Office*

*Heidi Daniel, Executive Director,
The Public Library of Yo. & Mahoning County*

Even a special performance by Opera Western Reserve!!

See you at the Fair next year!!



Department Spotlight

Mahoning County Data Processing Center

The Auditor is responsible for the management of the County Data Processing Center and serves as the Chief Administrator of the Automatic Data Processing Board.

The Mahoning County Data Processing/IT Departments worked most of 2015 & 2016 on Application, Service and IT infrastructure improvements. A Major upgrade to our Munis™ HR & Financial system in the summer of 2015 set the stage for new projects and state and Federal Reporting requirements. Most visible was the County's push towards spending transparency and the release of Checkbook data to the ohiocheckbook.com website. Additionally, new laws centered around reporting for the ACA (Affordable Care Act) require custom programming and training for staff. The County also made its initial steps in the creation of a true Enterprise-based Document Management System. Work continues on this system which will eventually provide a complete digital document archival system and replace microfilm as the medium by which archival documents, for the County Administrative and Judicial systems, are accessed. County IT also replaced the county's aging email system with a modern on premise messaging solutions for its 1000+ email users. In early 2016, county IT implemented new Host Servers for our primary and secondary Data Centers and expanded computing capacity with a projected lifecycle beyond 2020. Application improvements to the Court e-services and Document management has been completed.

In early April 2016, as culmination of work that began in September of 2015, the county released two completely new web based services – a public facing Website located at <http://www.mahoningcountyoh.gov>, and a JavaScript enabled GIS application, located at <http://gis.mahoningcountyoh.gov>. Overall County capital projects costs for IT improvements totaled over \$350,000.00.

The County also invested over \$1 million on ongoing software support and maintenance for our most critical software packages, which included:

- Auditor's Tax Assessment software and ERP Systems
- Court Case Management Systems
- JFS Document and Case Management
- Jail Booking and Inmate Management

Projects in progress include the Clerk of Court's ongoing and pending \$600,000 e-filing initiative, as well as projects funded through grants that include a new wireless network for the County Courthouse and other important areas, as well as new phone system in the Area courts. The Mahoning County Jobs and Family Services will be provided with new phone system to support their call center and 300 employees. Plans are underway to modernize the County's Backup and Disaster Recovery equipment, as well as provide 10GB high speed fiber connectivity between our Primary and Secondary Data Centers, as well as provide faster broadband connectivity for all County Public service locations.

Mahoning County



Auditor's Office

Mahoning County Courthouse

1st Floor

120 Market Street

Youngstown, OH 44503

Monday through Friday, 8:00 - 4:30

Phone: 330-740-2010

Fax: 330-480-7571

E-mail: countya@mahoningcountyoh.gov

Integrity. Transparency. Accountability

The Auditor serves as the county's chief fiscal officer, chief assessor, and sealer of weights and measures. As fiscal officer, the auditor is responsible for maintaining county financial records, issuing warrants (checks) for payment of county obligations and preparing the County's Annual Financial Report (CAFR). As assessor, the auditor determines property values for taxing purposes and transferring real property deeds. As sealer of weights and measures, the auditor tests and certifies the accuracy of various commercial measuring devices.

The Auditor also serves as permanent Secretary of the Budget Commission which includes the County Treasurer and Prosecutor as well as permanent Secretary of the Board of Revision which hears formal complaints on the valuation of property. Additionally, the Auditor is the chairperson of the Tax Incentive Review Council and is a member of the Records Retention Commission.

We are on the Web!
auditor.mahoningcountyoh.gov

Auditor Profile

The County Auditor is an elected official who shall hold his/her office for four years, commencing on the second Monday in March next after his/her election.

Current Term Expires 3/10/2019

Born and raised in Warren, Ohio, Meacham graduated from John F. Kennedy High School. He went on to earn an AB in Economics from John Carroll University and an MBA in Banking and Finance from Case Western Reserve University. Meacham worked in local banks and at the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland prior to receiving his MBA. Upon graduation, he started his professional career as a consultant and accountant at Ernst and Young, an international accounting firm. From there, he has

been a Vice President at Mellon Bank, CFO of the Pittsburgh Steelers, Senior Vice President and Chief Lending Officer of Lincoln Savings Bank, Registered Representative at Burgwin and



Co. Brokerage Firm, CFO and Director of Human Resources at Butler Wick Corporation as well as

CFO and Director of Operations at a regional CPA firm.

Integrity, transparency and accountability are the core principles on which Meacham has built his career. As Mahoning County Auditor, Meacham is relying on those same principles as he explores ways to save tax dollars, streamline services and restore taxpayer confidence in county government. The knowledge he has gained over his 35 years of financial management and leadership give him the unique opportunity to apply private business practices to government.

Auditor Meacham and his wife Mary Alice reside in Lake Milton. He has three adult daughters.